Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace par [0008], with the following amended paragraph [0008].

[0008] On the other hand, intersymbol interference due to a precursor (non-minimum phase shift fading) is equalized at the forward equalizer 32. Consequently, in connection with the ISI due to non-minimum phase shift fading, the DFE 30 merely implements equalization which is identical to that of the forward equalizer 32. This is the reason why an easily installed linear equalizer 32 is chiefly employed rather than a complex DFE in terrestrial digital microwave communications systems, permitting severe distortion due to non-minimum phase fading to occur frequently.

Please replace par [0010], with the following amended paragraph [0010].

[0010] U.S. Pat. No. 5,119, 401 proposes to improve the performance of the decision feedback equalizer by providing a DFE having a forward equalizer whose center tap is shifted by at least one symbol interval towards the final stage of the equalizer. As shown in FIG. 3, the DFE 100 differs from that shown in FIG. 1 in that the DFE of FIG. 1 has to be modified to include two subtractors 102, 104, two correlators 106, 108, and a tap control signal generator 110; moreover, the center tap c.sub.0 of the former arrangement is one-tap shifted towards the input thereof and hence the last tap is denoted by c+1.

Please replace par [0011], with the following amended paragraph [0011].

[0011] It will be appreciated that conventional DFEs, such as ~~thus~~ those discussed above, require very long taps in both its forward (FE) and feedback (FBE) equalizers, e.g., impulse filters, to combat the multipath impairment attributable to the channel. Due to design constraints, such long filters are often realized using pipeline structures. Such pipeline structures often introduce unwanted delay, i.e., implementation delay. Moreover, it will be noted that the delay in the feedback path of the equalizer results in a performance penalty. The performance of the equalizer will be degraded for those postcursor echoes that are very close to the main path. For such echoes, little help is

provided by the feedback filter, stressing the forward equalizer to do most of the equalization.

Please replace par [0012], with the following amended paragraph [0012].

[0012] Since postcursor echoes close to the main path are common in terrestrial channels, it would be extremely desirable if the feedback path could be realized without unwanted delay. Thus, what is needed is a method and corresponding circuitry for mitigating the performance loss associated with feedback loop delay in a DFE. It would be beneficial if the thus improved method and corresponding DFE circuitry could be implement at little or no additional cost.

Please replace par [0035], with the following amended paragraph [0035].

[0035] It should be mentioned that there are other advantages to the decision feedback equalizer (DFE) illustrated in FIG. 4 than the static performance advantage. For example, the decision feedback equalizer 200 exhibits faster convergence and better tracking of dynamic channels that contains significant postcursor echoes next to the main path.